Permission to constitute selection panel

2183. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a DoPT circular says that the Central Ministries must seek its permission to constitute a selection panel for appointment of institutional heads and nominating a DoPT official in the selection panel was mandatory;

(b) whether HRD Ministry has termed the circular as invalid on the ground that the DoPT cannot lay down selection procedures as several laws for Central and State Universities have clear guidelines on the subject; and

(c) if so, whether any step is being contemplated to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) In terms of DOP&T's OM No. 28/17/2004-EO(SM-II) dated 30.11.2005, each Ministry/Department was to constitute a Search-cum-Selection Committee for each post in the scale of pay of Rs. 18400-22400 or above in consultation with and as per guidelines of the DOP&T for appointments to be made in Autonomous (including Statutory) Institutions under that Ministry/Department. The Search-cum-Selection Committee was to include, *inter alia*, one representative of the DOP&T. On receipt of references, *inter alia* from the Ministry of HRD, the matter was reconsidered by the ACC and modified guidelines on the policy and procedure for appointments in Autonomous (including Statutory) Institution have been issued *vide* OM No. 28/13/2006/EO(SM-II) dated 3.7.2006. In the modified guidelines, the requirement of associating a representative of DOP&T has been done away with.

Corruption in the country

2184. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the top level corruption in the country's offcialdom remains rampant;

(b) if so, the details of such financial irregularities and swindling reported during the last two years; and